



Sen. Joe Zarelli  
P.O. Box 40418  
205 Irv Newhouse Bldg.  
Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 786-7634  
zarelli.joseph@leg.wa.gov  
1-800-562-6000

#### Committee Assignments

- Ways & Means, Ranking Republican
- International Trade & Economic Development
- Rules

**Help me save a stamp**  
**If you would like to receive this update via e-mail, please let me know! I take the spending of tax dollars very seriously. And while it is important for you to have this information, I want to be sure I'm saving money when and where I can, and an e-mail is cheaper than a stamp!**

#### Session Schedule

**April 1: Last day for committee reports for bills originating in opposing house**

**April 15: Last day to consider opposite house bills**

**April 24: Last day of session**

# Sen. Joe Zarelli's

## UPDATE FROM OLYMPIA

### 4/1/05

Dear Friends,

With three weeks left in the 2005 Legislative Session, things are definitely starting to heat up. Last week, it was Governor Christine Gregoire releasing her budget. This week, Senate Democrats released their two-year spending plan.

Unfortunately, as much as I was displeased with the governor's budget, I have to say the Senate Democrat budget is even worse. In a nutshell, it is a 12 percent increase over this biennium's budget! I wonder how many of you received a 12 percent increase in pay this year?

Despite the state being in a \$1.5 billion budget hole, this budget is a 12 percent increase and still raises taxes; neglects to make our payment into the state's pension system; and relies on budget transfers and one-time money, leaving us with at least a billion-dollar shortfall the next time we draft a budget!

Needless to say, I voted "no" on the budget yesterday.

As we approach the next cutoff where committee action ends and the remainder of the session is spent on the floor of the Senate, I wanted to give you a quick update on the status of a few bills of interest:

**ESHB 1282** – As of this update, ESHB 1282 is still alive. It passed out of the Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee. If you recall, this legislation would ban the teaching of abstinence-based sex education. It's my opinion that this is an issue best handled by the local school board and local school officials. I don't think the state should pass mandates on what can and can't be taught in sex education.

**SSB 5702** – This is legislation I sponsored to create the Dan Thompson Memorial Developmental Disabilities Community Trust Account. Basically, this bill says that if excess property at Lakeland Village or Rainier School is sold or leased, all proceeds must go into an account to help serve the developmentally disabled community. This bill is still alive as it passed the House Capital Committee on Thursday.

**SSB 6001** – This legislation directs the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to develop policies and training standards on the use of force and physical restraint in our public schools. I sponsored this bill because our teachers and school personnel are asked to walk a fine line. They are responsible for the safety and security of our children, yet are also exposed to liability risks that you and I are not. Proper training for the use of force and restraint is a must in today's environment.

I want to thank those of you who showed up at our Town Hall and our District Day. It was as much a pleasure meeting some of you for the first time as it was seeing some of my old friends. Your input in this process is greatly appreciated. As always, please contact my office with your questions or concerns. It is an honor representing you in Olympia.

Sincerely,